



"SIMBA" OR FAKE?
... Somebody's Lyin' About a Lion

'Simba' Pix Proved Hoax

A purported action photo of "Simba," the cagey Palos Verdes mountain lion on the prowl, was exposed yesterday as a clever but unsuccessful hoax.

Arriving just at deadline time yesterday was a picture of a snarling, long-tailed mountain lion—ostensibly "Simba."

With the photo was a letter supposedly written by an amateur Redondo Beach High School photographer, I. S. Hoques, of 2421 Via del Quechua, Palos Verdes Estates.

Perpetrator of the ruse is believed to be Baxter Omohundro, a Walteria newspaperman of 3212 Newton street, Omohundro, long desirous of evening an old score, attempted to dupe the editors of the Torrance Herald into running the picture and story.

The clever reporter made one mistake. He penned the note by hand. A comparison of a known sample of his handwriting proved the fraud.

Claiming he had shot the picture out of his bedroom window, he apologized for the picture being slightly out of focus. For all intents and purposes the picture COULD have been made in Palos Verdes. More than likely, though it was taken in some zoo.

A check of the streets revealed none by the name of Via del Quechua. A further check with officials revealed no person in the area by the name of I. S. Hoques. And for good reason. When pronounced aloud,

the signature makes sense—IS HOAX.



BAXTER OMOHUNDRO
... Hoax Fizzles

Annual Good Friday Services Tomorrow

The traditional three-hour service commemorating Good Friday, will be held beginning at 12 noon tomorrow in the Civic Auditorium under the auspices of the Torrance Council of Churches.

M. M. Schwab, president of the Torrance Council, will preside at the annual service.

Rev. Arthur E. Bello will begin the sermons at 12:05 on the subject of "Forgiveness." At 12:30 p.m. Rev. Arthur Pedersen will speak on "Authority"; Rev. C. M. Northrup will speak on "Remembrance" at 12:55; Rev. C. J. Edgland will preach on "Submission" at 1:20; Rev. Paul Wenske will preach on "Suffering" at 1:45; Rev. Schauer will preach on "Victory" at 2:10 and Rev. C. E. Miller will preach on

"Confidence" at 2:35.
Rev. Russell Killman will lead the singing during the special services. Special solos have been arranged for tomorrow's service.

Sticky Fingered Thief Has a Cold, Cold Heart

Joe Doss, owner of the Food King Market, is convinced that someone with sticky fingers also has a heart of stone.
Last Friday while Joe was checking a large basket of groceries for a customer she suddenly became very ill and it became apparent she was about to faint.

While the market owner carried the ailing woman to the rear of the store someone stole her basket of groceries from the counter.

Korea, Austria Chosen As Next Lecture Topics

"Korea and Austria—World Trouble Spots" is the topic for the next lecture of the Free lecture series being presented by El Camino College in its Campus Center. The lecture will be given by Delmas A. Bugell, college geography instructor Tuesday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Auditorium to Be Scene of Good Friday Rites

'Tiptoe' Burglar Waits 'til All Asleep; Enters, Loots 4 Homes

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Charter Changes Get OK

Approved by the State Legislature last Thursday were the eight charter amendments voted into effect by Torrance voters last April, according to Assemblyman Vincent Thomas who introduced the Assembly Concurrent Resolution, No. 32.

State approval of the amendments makes it law (according to the eight charter changes) that:

Demands against the city be approved by the city manager; All officers and employees of the city live within the City of Torrance;

All city officials, officers, and employees be required to take a loyalty oath; The City Council shall meet within the City of Torrance except in an emergency;

When required certain actions of the City Council be done by ordinance;

The duties of the City Attorney shall be as set forth in the amendment;

Actions against the city shall be certified; The local city court will have jurisdiction over certain civil and criminal actions.

By number, the charter amendments which were approved by the Assembly and Senate were 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, and 14. There were 14 amendments on the ballot.

Amendment 14, which added jurisdiction to the Torrance city court is presently under study by City Attorney Jim Hall. Just what effect Proposition 3, a state issue, will have on the local court is a matter of considerable speculation. At present small claims are tried in the Justice Court in Gardena.

Both the justice court and the local city court were abolished last week in favor of a municipal court with two judges. The court will be located in Redondo Beach.



PAT MEROLA
... Number One

Zoellerating Pat Merola Gets Top Spot Again In Queen Race

The shadow of a crown hovered for the second week over the head of Queen Candidate Pat Merola this week as a tabulation of the votes to date revealed that she still led the field of seven lovelies competing for the title of "Miss Torrance of 1951."

Leading the race by only 1840 votes over Sandy Gulbranson, of North Torrance, the Seaside Ranchos' candidate took over the top spot last week from Zola Bellwood who had led the contest from its first week. Zola dropped to third place this week.

Sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club as a fund-raising campaign to support the building program of the Torrance YWCA, this year's contest has only 10 more days to go. All balloting for the queen candidates will close at midnight, March 31. Next week's listing of the standings will be the last until the new queen is announced.

Following is a tabulation of the standings to date as they were compiled this week by William A. Zoeller, local certified public accountant.

	This Week	Last Week
Merola	30,166	28,266
Gulbranson	28,826	25,001
Bellwood	27,599	26,564
Fuller	22,934	20,409
Sandstrom	22,329	17,046
York	13,984	13,224
Gargalis	2,820	2,820

This week's top bonus of 1000 points for turning in the most votes went to Dorothy Sandstrom. Sandy Gulbranson received the 750-point bonus, and Donna Fuller received the 500-point bonus.

At the end of the fifth week a total of \$1369.08 had been turned in by the contestants, Zoeller's report showed. Of this amount, \$125.78 was turned in during the past week.

Mary Schultz, chairman of the queen contest, said this week that the announcement of the new "Miss Torrance" would be withheld until the Coronation Ball April 7. Debbie Claire and her Rhythmatics will play for the ball.

Thief, If Nabbed Will Be Behind The Proverbial 8-Ball

If he is ever caught, the thief who broke into the Riviera Beach Club Monday night, is going to be behind the eight ball in more ways than one.

He stole the eight ball from the club's pool table. Missing also was makings for a real headache—three fifths of Bourbon, a quart of Scotch, and a bottle of Vodka.



SANDY GULBRANSON
... Number Two



ZOLA BELLWOOD
... And Number Three

Footpad Rifles Purses While Victims Sleep

A pusyfooted burglar Thursday night entered the homes of four local residents and rifled purses and wallets while the owners slept nearby.

The burglar's quiet activities of the night netted him a total of \$125.86, according to Detectives Captain Ernie Ashton and Sergeant Percy Bennett of the Torrance Police Department.

Robbed were the homes of Dean L. Sears, 1935 Post avenue; Mrs. Alma Smith, 1614 Anapola avenue; Charles T. Rippey, 1611 El Prado; and Frederick Cook, 2207 West Carson street.

COOK HEAVY LOSER

Entering sometime after midnight, the light-footed thief made the biggest haul in the Cook's home where he stole \$79.86—half of which were funds belonging to the Torrance Masonic Lodge. An empty brief case was found the next morning on the lawn of Mrs. James Mathews, 1631 Cota avenue, a neighbor.

Taken from the home of Charles Rippey, prominent local attorney, was \$21. Missing from the home of Dean Sears, manager of the Torrance Branch Bank of America was \$22. A gold watch and expensive camera lying near the money was not disturbed, Sears told the detectives.

ENTERING BUT \$3 Mrs. Alma Smith fared the best at the hands of the nocturnal marauder losing only \$3. The footpad covered his trail fairly well according to the detectives. They said door knobs were clean of finger prints and no footprints were found.

All of the homes were within two blocks of each other.

Actually Spring came a week early to Torrance. Last Wednesday the mercury went scurrying up to kiss the 90-degree mark.

The weather fell just right for the 4500 Torrance school children who are currently on Easter vacation and enjoying warm beach weather.

Tomorrow, says the weatherman, is not going to be so hot. He puts the forecasted temperature at about 70 degrees. He says there will be low morning clouds, clearing to hazy sunshine, the remainder of the day.

Stopping by the weatherman's office for last week's temperature readings we found a note bearing the following information tacked to a sign on the door which read, "Gone to the Beach."

March	Maximum	Minimum
15	80	48
16	82	49
17	88	43
18	80	42
19	80	45
20	81	45
21	79	50

New Chemical Plant to Open In Torrance

Opening of a new factory and establishment of the headquarters of the West Coast sales organization of the John Wiley Jones Company, chemical specialists, was announced this week.

To be located at 1904 Border avenue, the new Torrance industry will eventually employ 15 to 20 persons in the office and about 100 in the factory, according to John W. Jones, Sr., who is taking charge of the plant here until it is operating. "We hope to get into operation within a couple of weeks," Jones told The Herald yesterday.

Brought to Torrance through the combined efforts of Mayor Bob Haggard and Chamber of Commerce Secretary Blaine Walker, Jones said his company specializes in the production of

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WHERE THERE'S SMOKE... Especially like these black pillars, there is usually an oil fire. Custer Halley, a National Supply employee, snapped this picture of an oil tank fire Monday morning while enroute to work. The tanks were located on 236th street near Pennsylvania avenue.

Oil Tank Fire Darkens Early Morning Sky

Rolling balls of dense black smoke poured forth from an oil tank fire early Monday morning at 236th street and Pennsylvania avenue.

Torrance firemen led by Captain Gene Walker were two hours on the scene fighting the blaze.

Destroyed were an oil heater and three storage tanks owned by oilman Dick Pettijohn of Pasadena. The blaze was believed started by an overheated oil heater.

Three other fire calls were answered by local firemen this week. A leaking gas line beneath the home of Pedro Martinez, 2205 West 203rd street, was believed to be the cause of a minor explosion and fire which destroyed a portion of the floor Saturday. Pueblo home last Saturday. Fire Chief J. J. Benner said the gas undoubtedly was ignited by the pilot light

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Adult Classes May Continue During Summer

Whether or not to continue the popular adult education classes through the summer was a question being studied by school officials and the Board of Education this week.

Normally the evening adult program is terminated at the same time the regular day sessions end for the summer. However, in view of the increased interest in various civilian defense training programs now being offered in the local schools the Board may continue to conduct classes this summer.

The matter was discussed by the Board at its regular meeting Tuesday night.

The Board, after viewing a proposed plot plan of the new Riviera School, authorized the architects and engineers to proceed with working drawings. To be included in the plans are three classroom wings (12 class rooms), a kindergarten unit and an administration unit.

After reviewing the situation last year the Board decided not to grant use of school playgrounds for recreation use until after the close of summer school classes each day. The play areas will be available for organized recreational programs such as are sponsored each summer by the city, after 1 p.m. each day.

"The operation of the program on the school grounds offers too much competition to those attending classes," Dr. J. H. Hull told the Board.

Taken under study by the school officials was a request from Mrs. Jesse Edwards and Mrs. Dorothy Turner that the

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